**COPYRIGHT FACTS**

**MEDIA II**

**What is Copyright?**

Copyright is the ownership of an original idea, expression or work. When you write a poem, a story or a paper for your class, you automatically own the copyright to it. In art class when you draw a picture or make an object, you also own the copyright. Copyright laws protect you from someone taking your work and claiming it for themselves.

**How important is Copyright in the Library/Media Center?**

Copyright is important because most books, and many web sites, are copyright protected. It is our responsibility in the media center to follow copyright guidelines and to educate the students and staff in our school.

It is against the law to take someone else’s work and claim it. Without copyright protection, originators of materials would not get paid for their works. Anyone could take a work and make money off of it. Therefore, authors would stop writing books because others would steal their books. Artists would stop writing songs because their songs would be stolen.

**What works are not copyrighted?**

* Work that is not original, such as the phone book, court records, maps
* Work that is old, copyright expires 70 years after author/originator dies
* Facts

**What is plagiarism?**

Plagiarism is the most frequently broken copyright law of students . Plagiarism is copying another person’s work. An example of this is a student who is to write a research paper. The student goes on the Internet and finds information. Then the student copies and pastes from an article into a word document. The student turns this copied work in as his or her own. This breaks the copyright laws and is a serious cheating offense.